Northern Region Quality Improvement Committee			
Meeting Dates:	July 18, 2008 August 15, 2008 September 24, 2008	Review and Action Plan	Follow-up
Dash Board Items/ Studies:	July 18, 2008 Project - Locating Kin	July 18, 2008 Discussed the proposal that Daryl Melton and Pam Clark put together. The focus of the project will be on clients who are close to aging out and who don't have a formal support system in place.  Jean Marie, DCFS regional kinship specialist, discussed how far the division has come in terms of finding/placing with kin and specific homes. Explained the procedures/process the Division is required to follow in terms of locating kin. She now has two staff who have joined her on the kinship team.  Neal Ashbridge, who oversees the region's permanency committee, will be invited to next month's meeting to discuss how he tracks the cases with clients who are languishing in care. He could help identify where the greatest needs are.	August 15, 2008  Neal did attend this month's meeting and reported on the population of cases that have been in foster care over 24 months. Some of the national barriers to permanency are missing parents, relative/kin coming in late, late starts in offering services and conducting searches, difficulty in obtaining evaluations or expert input, especially early on. Workers report that it's very difficult to get children adopted when there are so many mental health/behavioral issues, etc.

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	<u>August 15, 2008</u> Project - Locating Kin	July 18, 2008  The Family Support Center has \$11,000 dollars from last fiscal year that they would like to put towards this project.  July 18, 2008  There is also mentoring project for adolescent youth from Judge Nelson's court that is being sponsored by the Court Improvement Project. Initially 5 youth who are in need of permanent connections will be identified to participate in that project.  August 15, 2008  Several more ideas were discussed this monthusing school counselors for mentoring purposes, inviting different people, IE coaches, sports player, etc. to be involved with the children, possibly training for the community on the 'how to work towards permanency, locating kin', etc. thinking more 'outside' the box in terms of locating kin/creating permanency.  The committee decided to create a subcommittee to head this project. There	August 15, 2008 The Committee would like to invite Kevin Campbell, nationally known youth permanency expert and creator of Family Finding, to this region for his training session. Some of the \$11,000 monies, the Family Support Center has offered, will be used to pay his fees. The hope is to have him present sometime this fall.

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		head of the subcommittee. Pam reports she has already had several outside entities asking, being interested in being part of this project.	
		September 24, 2008  Pam Clark, chair of the subcommittee, did contact Kevin Campbell, nationally known youth permanency expert and creator of Family Finding, and he is very interested in coming to this region to conduct one of his trainings. The \$11,000 the Family Support Group has donated to this project will not be enough to cover follow up trainings from Kevin. The subcommittee will work on finding additional funding for this. Pam will report back next month with more information.  Lynell Packard discussed the information she obtained regarding a service that is used to locate kin. It's called US Search. If an account is set up with credit card payments, each search will cost \$25. Lynell will discuss the information she has at the next	
CPS Issues:		subcommittee. <u>September 24, 2008</u>	
		Cheryl Dalley, from the Office of Services Review, attended the meeting and forward information regarding fatality reviews and the process that takes place whenever there is a death of a child, where DCFS services	

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		have been in their home within the last 12 months. The purpose for reviewing a client death is to develop ways to prevent future client deaths and to improve Department services.	
QCR Participation:	QCR Results		
	QCR Participation	August 15, 2008	September 24, 2008
		QCR training being planned	Dan Choate, from the state office training team, has agreed to come to the region to conduct the QCR training for members of this committee. It will be held October 8 <sup>th</sup> from 8:30 to 4:00. Once members of this committee complete the training, they will then be able to shadow a reviewer during the review
Other Business:	July 18, 2008	July 18, 2008	September 24, 2008
	Immersion Day	Immersion Day will be help October 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2008. Along with other outside agencies, Hill Air Force Base will be invited. There was discussion regarding being more selective on the consumer panel, making both panels smaller this time and conducing the panel portion before the lunch break.	There have been several outside agencies/organizations that have responded to the invitation to the Immersion Day. This committee will continue to send out invitations.
			September 24, 2008
	July 18, 2008 QI Summit	July 18, 2008  The QI Summit will be held November 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2008. The location to be announced.	Encouraged members of the committee to attend the upcoming QI Summit. The location is still to be announced.

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	July 18, 2008 IL Home	July 18, 2008  The IL home will undergo major remodeling in the basement. This will most likely be a 2-year project. Landscaping has begun.	
	July 18, 2008  Court with Lisa Michelle	July 18, 2008  Those members of this committee that attended court with Lisa Michelle Church, DHS Director, found the experience to be very interesting and informative. They would recommend the experience to anyone.	